## CAROLINA SILVERBELL

## Halesia Carolina L.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Oppossum-wood, Silverbell, Snow-drop-tree.

FORM: Rarely 40 feet high, short trunk often divided near the ground into several spreading branches, forming a round-headed tree.

BARK: 1/2 inch thick, slightly ridged, reddish-brown, separating into closely appressed scales.

TWIGS: At first glabrous or densely pubescent, later red-brown.

LEAVES: Elliptic to oblong-obovate, abruptly acuminate and long-pointed at apex, rounded or cuneate at base, dentate with small remote callous teeth, yellow-green and glabrous above, pale and glabrous or slightly villous below on the midrib and primary veins, 3-4 inches long, 1 1/2-2 inches wide, 6-7 inches long on the leading shoots.

FLOWERS: About 1/2 inch long, on glabrous or slightly or densely villose pedicels 1/2-3/4 inch in length, from the axils of evanescent bracts, corolla narrowed below into a short tube, white, sometimes tinged with rose.

FRUIT: Oblong to oblong-obovate, 4-winged, 1 1/2 inch long, 1/2-3/4 inch in diameter, usually one-seeded; seed rounded at the narrow ends, 1/4-1/3 inch long.

WINTER BUDS: Ellipsoid to ovoid, 1/8 inch long with thick broad-ovate dark red, acute scales.

WOOD: Light, soft, close-grained, light brown with thick lighter colored sapwood.

USES: Landscaping

HABITAT: Wooded slopes and banks of streams.

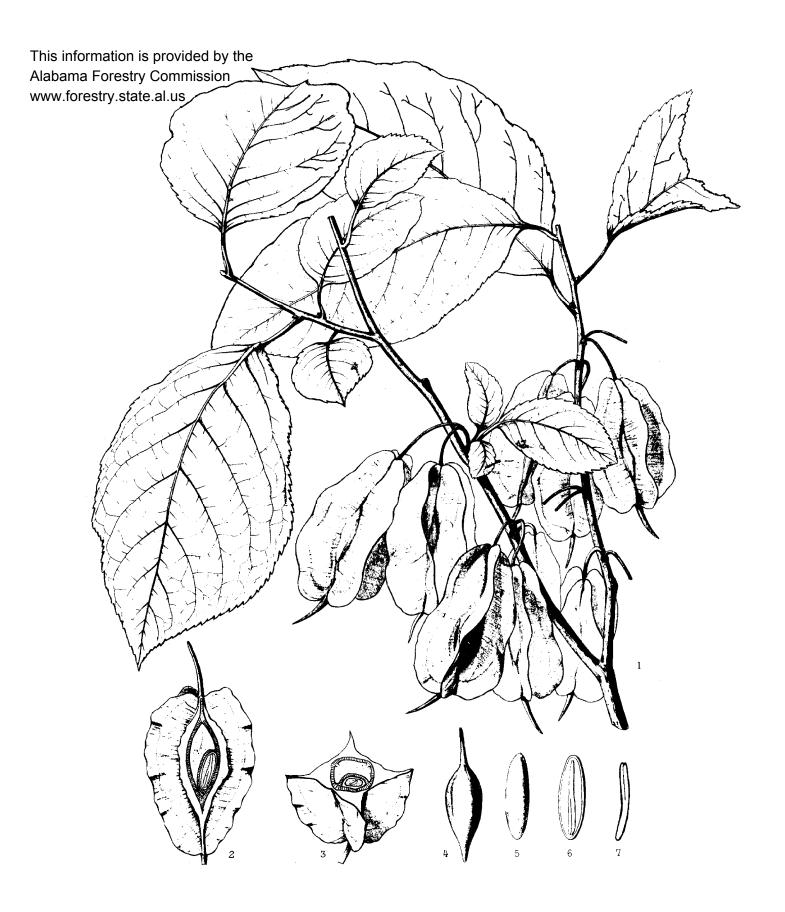
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Flowers about 1/2 inch long; fruit I-winged, 1/2 inch long; a round-headed tree, rarely 40 feet high; short trunk, divided near the ground.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Reported from Lauderdale, Colbert, Cullman, Cherokee, Talladega, Coosa, Clay, Elmore, Montgomery, Autauga, Dallas, Coffee, Butler, and Clarke Counties.

## EXPLANATION OF PLATE

- 1. A fruiting branch
- 2. Vertical section of a fruit with one seed developed
- 3. Cross section of a fruit with one seed developed

- 4. A nutlet
- 5. A seed
- 6. Vertical section of a seed
- 7. An embryo



Halesia Carolina L.

Plate 95